

A Terminal Disclaimer is enclosed to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. It is noted that since the mail date of the office action, application 09/620,821, one of the cited references, has issued as U.S. patent number 6,898,182. Thus, the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer refers to this patent number rather than the serial number of the corresponding application, which was recited in the office action.

The office action also states that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, as it is based on a rejected base claim – claim 13. Since the rejection of the base claim 13 is an obviousness-type double patenting rejection, and other statutory basis for rejection are not referred to in the office action, Applicant assumes that the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer will obviate the rejection of claims 13 and 14, as well as the objection to claim 15.

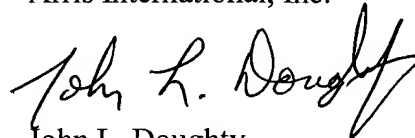
Accordingly, with entry of the enclosed Terminal disclaimer, the application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment please contact the undersigned at the mailing address, telephone, facsimile number, or e-mail address indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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